# CEA ACTION PROPOSAL



Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date: 11/9/2022

2. Department: California Energy Commission

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director of Renewable and Electricity Planning Program

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (*2-3 sentences)*

The California Energy Commission (CEC) requests approval to establish and fill a CEA position as the Deputy Director of Data Analysis and Policy Development within the Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection (STEP) division. This position will operate under the oversight and general direction of the STEP Director and will provide high-level policy and administrative support on a range of complex energy issues relating to the development, implementation, compliance, and administration of Data Analysis and Policy Development. The Deputy Director will support all aspects of division's responsibilities in this area, including leading engagement with internal and external stakeholders, and providing oversight of branch managers, supervisors, and staff in support of technical work products and administrative functions This position will also provide broad support for administrative functions supporting the various programs overseen by the STEP division.

6. Reports to: (*Class Title/Level*)

Director of Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division CEA Level B

7. Relationship with Department Director (*Select one)*

☑ Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.

☐ Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(*Explain*):

8. Organizational Level *(Select one)*

☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☑ 4th ☐ 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

## B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

Under the general direction of the Director the Deputy Director is responsible for assisting the Director in all aspects of the REPP's deliverables including principle policy making authority of the renewable portfolio standards, offshore wind energy development, land use planning, and other administrative responsibilities supporting the program and it's branches. In this capacity, the Deputy Director functions in the place of and as an extension of the Director.

The Deputy Director supports all aspects of the division's REPP roles and responsibilities including working with and directing staff and engaging with internal and external stakeholders. The Deputy Director is responsible for the leadership and management direction in the CEC's clean energy implementation planning program that includes Assembly Bill (AB) 205 and AB 209's offshore wind energy development initiatives, Senate Bill (SB 100) land-use screens from solar, terrestrial wind, energy storage, and transmission infrastructure planning. This work is mission critical for the CEC as California moves to a zero-carbon electricity system and the feasibility of offshore wind energy contributing to a 100 percent clean energy future The Deputy Director will oversee the varied and complex analytical and consultative assignments in the evaluation, strategic planning, and development projects in support of renewable resources and offshore wind energy generation and transmission system analysis to identify and evaluate existing and new infrastructure needs to meet California's energy goals under SB 100 and its aspirational goals under AB 525.

The CEA will oversee these legislative mandates to develop programs and engage and support CEC leadership and external partners; advising and collaborating with the Director on advancing energy sector decarbonization, resilience, reliability, equity, and policy matters. Leads the development and implementation of the REPP's policies and administrative activities, including: overseeing the budget, work plans, and processes; assessing and supporting staff activities and performance; and overseeing the REPP's activities related to communication of program benefits. The Deputy Director has responsibility for the REPP's technical and programmatic leadership areas that include: full management responsibility for the most complex and sensitive program issues including oversight, planning and directing the managers in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Climate Initiatives, and Fiscal and Data Management Branches, and activities related to the PPP.

The CEA represents the division and the CEC before various state, federal and local energy regulatory agencies and organizations with roles in shaping the state's clean energy policies with respect to clean energy infrastructure, integrity, sustainability, renewable integration, renewable generation resiliency, offshore wind infrastructure planning, investment and outreach, renewable portfolio standards, certification and eligibility, verification and compliance, tribal outreach and coordination, equity, and strategic analysis.

The CEA serves as an expert resource on policy, technology, market, and strategic issues as directed by the Director and plays a primary role in coordination and collaboration with other interested stakeholders and the public as well as other state, federal, and local agencies, as such as the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, California Air Resources Board, State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, the federal Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Energy Ocean Energy Management, and others to ensure alignment of environmental, resiliency, and climate goals for the state. This position will require building relationships with other agencies, balancing authorities, utilities, and other stakeholders to facilitate a understanding of analysis, promote data collection, and information sharing.

## B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- ☑ Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- ☐ Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- ☐ Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description:

The Warren-Alquist Act established the CEC in 1975 as the state's primary policy and planning agency.
The CEC plays a critical role in creating the energy system for the future - one that is clean, modern, and ensures the fifth largest economy in the world continues to thrive. Combating climate change is fundamental to maintaining California's future. The CEC plays a critical role in implementing and crafting policies and programs to create a low-carbon economy.

The REPP effectively implements new and existing complex statutory mandates and initiatives that cut across energy resource areas (renewable standards, decarbonization, grid reliability, offshore wind, solar, utility jurisdictions) and clean energy technologies. The program provides critical functions in support of the CEC's mission for a 100 percent clean energy future for all. The program's functions also meet the high-level goals of the state.

The REPP also plays a critical role in achieving California's ambitious climate and energy goals while ensuring the state's energy system remains, reliable, safe, and affordable. The CEC has led and proactively collaborated with sister agencies on multiple landscape level planning efforts including the mandates of SB 100 (The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act), AB 525, the Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Federal Waters off the California Coast, and the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management-California Offshore Wind Task Force, and multiple budget bills recently signed into law specific to the Strategic Reliability Reserve Program that includes multi-million grant program to support sea port infrastructure development. The STEP division also holds public workshops and issues analyses on California's climate and clean energy goals, renewable energy integration, future electric transmission needs, and proposed options for expanding the state's electric wholesale market zero-carbon energy generation throughout the western United States.

## B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

Climate change is causing unprecedented stress on California's energy system—driving high demand and constraining supply. Extreme weather events from climate change—including heat waves, wildfires, and the impact of drought on hydropower capacity, combined with other factors such as supply- chain disruptions—are jeopardizing California's ability to build out the electric infrastructure in the time frame and at the scale needed. California experienced our highest demand for electricity on September 6, 2022 as predicted early in 2022.

California's overall energy budget increased significantly and includes an additional $8.1 billion to support energy reliability, relief, and clean energy investments. Significant new work is directed at the division requiring collaboration with the CPUC and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) implementing the Strategic Electricity Reliability Program. A new $2.2 billion program to support identification and award incentives under the strategic energy reserve resources to support reliability during extreme weather events.

The state is now investing an additional $140 million into long duration storage incentives to support grid reliability. The CEC will once again coordinate with the CPUC on these projects since we confirm these facilities are Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) - eligible and the CPUC will use our approval and siting of these projects in their approval of long-term procurement contracts that the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) enter with renewable energy companies. The division role has also expanded to have oversight of certification of all renewable energy projects as RPS-eligible for the CPUC including onshore wind and residential and commercial solar projects, and short-term battery storage.

In January 2022, the division has been mandated by the legislature to develop a long-term strategic plan for offshore wind energy in federal waters off the California coast. This new work requires the division, in consultation with the CPUC and the CAISO to assess the transmission investments and upgrades necessary, including potential sub-sea transmission options, to support the recent CEC adopted 2030 and 2045 offshore wind planning goals. Under AB 525, the CEC must develop three interim reports that includes aspirational planning goals for 2030 and 2045 that were adopted in August 2022. As a result of those planning goals the division must also develop and submit to the legislature a permitting roadmap that describes time frames and milestones for a permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast, which includes financing, engineering, procurement, and construction considerations in developing new state regulations: and a report on the preliminary assessment of the economic benefits for port development and workforce needs and standards. Finally, the CEC is required to development and submit a strategic plan for offshore wind energy development off the California coast in federal waters based on these various finding, which also includes ongoing inter-agency work groups, targeted outreach, and public workshops to identify sea space and coastal resources, and address impacts to fisheries, marine ecosystems, national defense, and to Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples. The 2022-23 Budget Act, also created a program to spur waterfront facility improvements for offshore wind deployment, and AB 209 also creates the Voluntary Offshore Wind and Coastal Resources Protection program to be administered by the CEC that support state activities while furtherance of related federal laws and an offshore wind MOU with Oregon.

To support AB 100 activities, the CEC is required to develop a methodology for land use screens. These screens bring to light the land access limitations or competing land use priorities that can be experienced in renewable energy project development, thereby helping system planners to focus on areas that have a greater potential for successful deployment of new solar, terrestrial wind, or geothermal capacity.

These new areas of responsibility and policy implications covering new areas of focus and increased programmatic complexity require higher-level leadership support to ensure the state moves toward 100 percent clean energy resources by 2045. Additionally, the administration of these programs will necessitate the development of highly efficient administrative procedures, critical and strategic thinking, and a high degree of division leadership skill for the future of a safe and reliable California electricity system.

## C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

Specific examples of policy areas over which this CEA position will be the principal policymaker include:

The Offshore Wind Program and Goals Report (AB525) - Provide strategic leadership and policy direction for analyses of electricity generation and storage technologies including offshore wind resources, fuel and infrastructure implications, electric system reliability requirements over forecast planning periods, and evaluations of transmission and distribution system development opportunities. The evaluation of new electric generation, storage and transmission technologies, especially those new and emerging technologies associated with offshore wind and integrating advanced renewable resources. This will evaluate difficult engineering, economics and cost-benefit studies, system cost effectiveness assessments, environmental implications for permit requirements and risks for regulatory approvals, and societal benefit assessments of electric resource, fuel needs and transmission development options. Legislation requires the CEC to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and establish megawatt offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045 by June 2022 and submit the strategic plan to the Legislature in June 2023. As part of developing the strategic plan, the CEC in coordination with relevant state and local agencies, is required to develop a plan to improve waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities, including construction and staging of foundations, manufacturing of components, final assembly, and long-term operations and maintenance facilities.

Offshore Wind Port Investments: $11 million (AB 179) – Provide strategic leadership and policy direction for a $10.5 million grant for renovations at the Port of Humboldt Bay to support offshore wind activities in the north coast. Once renovated, the new Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal will be capable of handling large heavy cargo vessels, offshore wind floating platform development and integration and decommissioning, and other maritime activities. Investing in offshore wind port infrastructure is critical to opening the opportunity for offshore wind development in California, which is home to some of the best offshore wind resources in the world. The terminal is expected to initially support the development of up to 1.6 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind in the Humboldt call area, enough electricity to power up to 1.6 million California homes. The project is expected to revitalize the waterfront industry in Humboldt County and provide living wage jobs to nearby communities. An economic assessment found that as many as 830 local jobs could be created and more than $130 million generated in industry output over a five-year period.

Offshore Wind Infrastructure Program $45M (AB 209) - Provide strategic leadership and policy direction to advance California's progress toward its renewable energy and climate goals. As offshore wind energy develops off the California coast, California ports, harbors, and other waterfront facilities have the potential to serve as strategic hubs, playing a key role in the floating offshore wind supply chain. To maximize the environmental and economic benefits of an offshore wind energy industry, California's waterfront facilities require significant investments to upgrade and expand their existing infrastructure. The program will make investments in facility planning and development activities that will advance the capabilities of deploying offshore wind energy in federal waters off California. If developed and deployed at scale, has the potential to provide both economic and environmental benefits at both the local and state levels. Offshore

Wind Outreach Program $2.5M (AB 525) - Provide strategic leadership and policy direction for community outreach, engagement, and technical analyses engaging with all stakeholders is to understand and incorporate concerns in the planning process. The program will lead a robust outreach process that includes working with stakeholder groups, such as commercial fishers and tribal governments. Outreach to ports and key stakeholders will include the diverse range of coastal communities, Tribes and the fishing industry to ensure that the process around offshore wind reflects diverse issues and perspectives, the potential impacts of offshore wind are identified and adequately addressed, and that the opportunities presented by these new industries are understood. Outreach would also include stakeholders within the offshore wind supply chain and those within labor and workforce development. The needs for investment in port or other physical infrastructure and/or supply chain or capacity building will also be identified. This outreach ensures an opportunity for public and stakeholder input and transparency.

## C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The position will provide leadership with decision-making authority and management direction in the evaluation, strategic planning, and development phase supporting renewable resources and offshore wind energy generation and transmission system analysis. This work will identify and evaluate existing and new infrastructure needs to meet California's energy goals under Senate Bill (SB) 100 and Assembly Bill (AB) 525.

The position advises leadership on research direction, and complex energy sector technology and policy matters. Responsible for formulating, reviewing, and implementing policies, regulations, procedures and administrative activities related to the areas listed above. The position provides support and leadership for the REPP and special projects such as policy reports, and legislation review that involve interoffice and inter-divisional coordination and may require a timely response to Commissioners, the Legislature or Governor. This position will have decision-making authority within the subject areas overseen by three branches, Renewable Portfolio Standards, Climate Initiatives (including offshore wind), and Fiscal and Data Management, under the oversight of the division director, and in consultation with statewide policymakers and a broad range of stakeholders.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

The position will both advance new and existing policies that have been put forth by the Legislature and Governor and will be required to identify and develop additional policies and strategies that advance California's renewable resources and offshore wind energy generation and transmission system analyses. This work will identify and evaluate existing and new infrastructure policies to meet California's energy and equity goals under Senate Bill (SB) 100 and Assembly Bill (AB) 525.

The CEA will participate with the Director in decisions on complex policy matters and on the overall activities, organization, and long-term direction of the division. The CEA will develop policy statements, REPP direction, and division goals as needed. The CEA will develop and implement new policy and interpret and implement existing policy in managing REPP and projects. The CEA provides leadership and management direction. advises and collaborates with the Director on complex energy sector technology and policy matters.